

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, TU

SUBJECT:ANTAKYA THREE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER TO EDITOR FROM CONGRESSMAN
SAWYER (R-MICH), PUBLISHED IN JULY 2, WASHINGTON STAR,
UNDER CAPTION "IN A TURKISH JAIL FOR LIFE?".

BEGIN TEXT:

EFFORTS ON MY PART TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF JOANN MCDANIEL
AND KATHERINE ZENZ, IMPRISONED IN TURKEY ON DRUG CHARGES,
HAVE NOT FALLEN UPON DEAF EARS. IN RECENT DAYS, I HAVE NOT
ONLY BEEN CONTACTED BY CONCERNED CITIZENS THROUGHOUT THE
COUNTRY BUT ALSO BY OFFICIALS OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT.

ON JUNE 19, I MET WITH THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR, MELIH ESENBEL
CONCERNING MY PENDING LEGISLATION TO SPUR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A RECIPROCAL PRISONER EXCHANGE TREATY WITH TURKEY. HE
TOLD ME THAT HIS COUNTRY DID DESIRE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
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SUCH A TREATY WITH THE U.S. AND THAT, IN FACT, TURKEY HAD
A SIMILAR TREATY WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.

ON THE BASIS OF THIS CONVERSATION, I HAVE ASKED THE STATE
DEPARTMENT AND THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TO RESEARCH BOTH THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE TREATY AND OUR OWN TREATY WITH MEXICO AND

CANADA, BASED ON PUBLIC LAW 144, TO EVALUATE THE PROVISIONS AND DETERMINE THE DIFFERENCES. HOPEFULLY THIS RESEARCH WILL FURTHER ENLIGHTEN AND HELP US IN LEADING TO THE PROMPT NEGOTIATION OF AN ACCEPTABLE TREATY TO BOTH COUNTRIES.

A LETTER I RECEIVED FROM AMBASSADOR ESENBEL AFTER OUR MEETING WAS DISAPPOINTING AS IT DID NOT CONTAIN AS STRONG A COMMITMENT TO THE TREATY AS THE AMBASSADOR HAD EXPRESSED TO ME IN OUR MEETING. I REPLIED THAT I HAD JUST ABOUT MADE UP MY MIND NOT TO OFFER ANY AMENDMENT TO THE LEGISLATION LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO AND PROVIDING FOR ECONOMIC AID, BUT IN LIGHT OF WHAT NOW APPEARS TO BE REALLY NO MOVEMENT OR CHANGE IN POSITION ON THE PART OF HIS GOVERNMENT, I WAS RECONSIDERING MY POSITION. HAROLD S. SAWYER,(R-MICH) MEMBER OF CONGRESS. END TEXT.

SAWYER LETTER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTOGRAPH WITH FOLLOWING CAPTION: QUOTE KATHERINE ZENZ AND JOANN MCDANIEL AS THEY WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH FIVE YEARS AGO FOR ALLEGEDLY SMUGGLING HASHISH INTO TURKEY. THE SENTENCE LATER WAS COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT. END QUOTE VANCE

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